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Russian Federation

Fishery Products

New Structure of the Federal Fishery Agency

2008

Approved by:

Kimberly Svec
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Kimberly Svec and Marina Muran

Report Highlights:

On May 30, 2008, President Medvedev signed Decree # 863, which returns the Federal Fishery Agency to the control of the Prime Minister's office. The Agency also gained the authority to draft tariff and non-tariff regulations for the fishery sector. According to Deputy Prime Minister Zubkov, the new structure will facilitate decision making process in the fishery sector.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Decree Number 863, dated May 30, 2008, of the President of the Russian Federation on the Federal Fishery Agency	3
Comments	4
Relevant Reports.....	5

Executive Summary

Since the inauguration of President Dmitry Medvedev on May 7, 2008, the Federal Fishery Agency has been subject to a confusing restructuring process. First, on May 12, the Russian Federation issued Decree Number 724 which transferred the authority to draft decisions on behalf of the Russian government on tariff and non-tariff regulations of agricultural and fish products to the Ministry of Agriculture and renamed the State Fisheries Committee Federal Fishery Agency (Rosrybolovstvo), thereby returning to its previous name. However, on May 30, President Medvedev signed Resolution Number 863 reinstating the Federal Fishery Agency which will report directly to the Prime Minister's office, and not to the Ministry of Agriculture. The agency also gained the authority to draft tariff and non-tariff regulation for the entire fishery sector. Previously, this authority was under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

According to Alexander Savelyev, spokesman for Rosrybolovstvo, Decree 863 is the next step in transforming state management of the industry. The President reinstated the right of the fishing agency to develop state policy and draft regulation for the fishing industry. Thus the government responded to the pleas of the Russian Regional Associations of Fishermen for the Fishery Agency in regaining its independency. Rosrybolovstvo will also be responsible for preservation of fish resources in the inland waters. The Agency has also been authorized to manage the state property in the fishing industry.¹

Text of the Decree 863 of May 30, 2008

Below is an unofficial translation of the Resolution.

Begin text:

Decree Number 863, dated May 30, 2008, of the President of the Russian Federation on the Federal Fishery Agency

For the purpose of improving the structure of federal bodies of executive power, in compliance with Article 112 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Federal Constitutional Law # 2-FKZ of the Government of the Russian Federation" dated December 17, 1997, I hereby decree:

1. To transfer the following functions to the Federal Agency for Fishery:

- functions of development and implementation of the state policy and regulation in the sphere of fisheries, fishery production activities on fishing fleet vessels, conservation, rational use, study, preservation and reproduction of aquatic biological resources and their habitats;
- functions of control and supervision over aquatic biological resources and their habitats in the inland waters of the Russian Federation;
- functions of rendering state services, management of state property in the sphere of fisheries, in the spheres of conservation, rational use, study, preservation and reproduction of aquatic biological resources and their habitats as well as functions in the sphere of fish farming (except for industrial fish farming), fish processing, navigation safety control,

¹ Prior to April 2004, fisheries were under the aegis of the State Fisheries Committee, chairman of which was subordinate to the Prime Minister. From April 2004 to November 2007, a Federal Agency for Fisheries existed as part of the Ministry of Agriculture. The State Committee for Fisheries was re-established November 1, 2007, by decree.

salvage and rescue operations in fishing areas, production operations on fishing fleet vessels and in maritime ports as related to maintenance of fishing fleet vessels.

2. To stipulate that the Government of the Russian Federation shall be authorized to manage the activities and operations of the Federal Agency for Fishery.

3. To amend the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation # 724 "On the System and Structure of the Federal Executive Bodies of Power" as of May 12, 2008 (Collection of Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation, 2008, #20, Article 2290) and modify the structure of federal executive bodies approved by the Resolution to reflect the following changes:

a) item 9 of the Decree:

The first paragraph shall read as follows:

"9. To transfer to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation the functions of the transformed Russian Federation Ministry of Economic Development and Trade concerning development and implementation of the state policy and regulation in the sphere of land relations (as related to agricultural lands) monitoring of such lands as well as development of draft decisions of the Government of the Russian Federation concerning the application of customs tariff and non-tariff regulation measures".

In paragraph three to replace "the Federal Forestry Agency and the Federal Fishery Agency" with "and Federal Forestry Agency";

b) in the structure of federal executive bodies:

Delete "the Federal Fishery Agency" from Section II "Federal ministries whose operations are controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation, federal services and federal agencies subordinated to these federal ministries;"

Add "the Federal Fishery Agency" to Section III "Federal services and federal agencies that are managed by the government of the Russian Federation";

4. The Government of the Russian Federation shall bring its acts in compliance with the present Decree.

5. The present Decree comes into force on the date of its official publication.

President of the Russian Federation

D.Medvedev

Moscow, Kremlin

May 30, 2008

#863

End Text

Comments

Russian Regional Fishery Associations and Unions asked the President and the Chairman of the Government in May to postpone the transfer of "the headquarters of the fishing industry" to the Ministry of Agriculture. Fishermen believed that reorganization of the Agency would not allow enough time for fishermen to start the salmon fishing season and would delay distribution of quotas for the period of 10 years that is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2009.

According to current legislation, the government is expected to release 28 regulations by July 1, allowing the amendments to the Law "On Fishing Industry and Preservation of Aquatic Biological Resources" to become effective. If the Ministry of Agriculture took over the

fisheries functions, it would be necessary to renegotiate many of the amendments, thereby delaying their implementation. According to Deputy Prime Minister Zubkov, who was appointed by Putin as the Chairman of the interagency commission on fishery sector development in late May, the new structure will facilitate the decision making process in the fishery industry.

The Ministry of Agriculture has not yet made any public comments regarding the changes in the government structure. According government sources, further changes are expected and the sector could eventually return to the Ministry of Agriculture once the drafts of amendments to the Law "On Fishing Industry and Preservation of Aquatic Biological Resources" are approved by the government.

Relevant Reports

RS8023 Agricultural Situation / Ministry of Agriculture Board Discusses the Past, Present, and Future <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200803/146294111.pdf>

RS8004 Agricultural Situation / Deputy Prime Minister Addresses Agricultural Policy <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200801/146293532.pdf>

RS8036 Agricultural Situation/ Agriculture Prominent in Putin Government <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200805/146294647.pdf>

RS8011 Fishery Products / Policy Update <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200802/146293770.pdf>

RS7066 Fishery Products/ Annual <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200710/146292593.pdf>